

# COLONIAL DORCHESTER

STATE HISTORIC SITE

Visitors to Colonial

Dorchester State Historic Site are walking into a rare look at a remarkably preserved past.

An archaeological treasure, the park rests on the site of Dorchester, a trading town that flourished on the Ashley River inland from Charleston from 1697 through the Revolutionary War.

Intact remains of the old town include the brick bell tower of St. George's Anglican Church, a fort made of the oyster-shell concrete called tabby, and part of a log wharf visible at low tide.

When the town was abandoned after the Revolution, the forest and later a community park protected the site, leaving remarkably undisturbed evidence of village life just beneath the surface.

Today, visitors to Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site can watch as archaeologists unearth the settlement's history. Together with abundant historical records from Charleston, the site is helping to paint a clearer picture of colonial life in the American South.



**Designation:** Listed on the National Register

**Counties:** Dorchester

**Acreage:** 325

**Pets:** Pets are allowed in most outdoor areas provided they are kept under physical restraint or on a leash not longer than six feet.

**Admissions:** \$2/adults; \$1.25/SC seniors; free for age 15 & younger

#### Tour and Programs

**Information:** Visitors can observe and even participate in archaeological digs revealing well-preserved building foundations, street systems and other evidence of colonial life in the old town.

Hands-on educational programs are held regularly on weekends.

School groups can also participate in similar programs during the week through "DiscoverCarolina Programs", which provides curriculum-based social studies programs

for South Carolina school children.

**Driving Directions:** From I-26: Take exit 199-A. Travel 3 mi on Hwy 17 through downtown Summerville to Hwy 165.

Turn left onto Hwy. 165/E. Carolina Ave. Stay in right lane and travel .5 miles and veer right and continue on Hwy. 165/Bacons Bridge Rd.

Travel 2.5 mi to Hwy 642/ Dorchester Rd.

Turn Left at intersection of bacons Bridge Road and Dorchester Road.

Travel 2 mi. and park entrance will be on the right.

**GPS Coordinates:** Long: 80° 10' 24.11"W , Lat: 33° 57' 9.89"N

#### Park Facilities and Activities:

- Interpretive trails
- Picnic Area



300 State Park Rd  
Summerville, SC 29485  
Phone: (843) 873-1740  
Office Hours: 11am-12pm  
Park Hours: M-Su 9am-6pm